

ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING THE GREEN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB (gDIH) IN KENYA

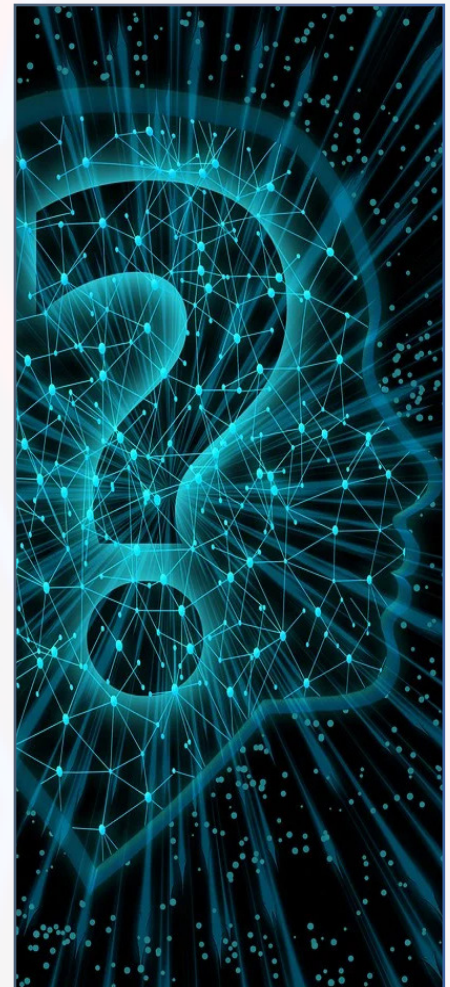
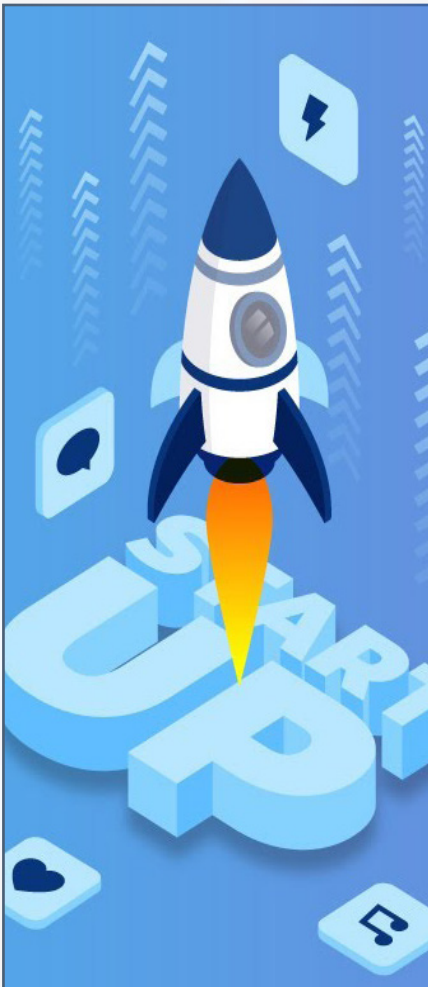


**Supporting sustainable green and
digital innovations in Kenya**

The value proposition

The Kenyan Green and Digital Innovation Hub (gDIH) is envisioned to become a one-stop-shop that will contribute to the digital transformation of Kenyan enterprises while promoting sustainable development, circular economy, environmental protection and tackling climate change. The hub aims to support Kenyan enterprises in their green and digital transformation, by offering services under four key pillars: skills development and training; access to finance; access to testing facilities; and innovation ecosystem building. To realise its vision and mission, the hub will pursue the following objectives:

- i. enhance access by innovators, start-ups, MSMEs to piloting, testing, prototyping and validation facilities and services;
- ii. enhance access by startups, innovators and MSMEs to finances for implementing their green and digital technologies-oriented businesses;
- iii. provide skills and training to innovators, start-ups, and MSMEs to enable them to develop and manage business enterprises related to green and digital technologies;
- iv. strengthen innovation and ecosystem development.



Five unique features of the hub

The Kenyan Green and Digital Innovation Hub has the following five unique features:



1

TWIN TRANSFORMATION

- ✓ Green Transformation
- ✓ Digital Transformation



2

FOCUS SECTORS

- ✓ Agriculture,
- ✓ Energy and ICT
- ✓ Smart City



3

FOCUS TECHNOLOGIES

- ✓ Automation,
- ✓ Cybersecurity,
- ✓ Computing
- ✓ IoT
- ✓ IoF



4

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

- ✓ Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Kenya



5

REGIONAL COVERAGE

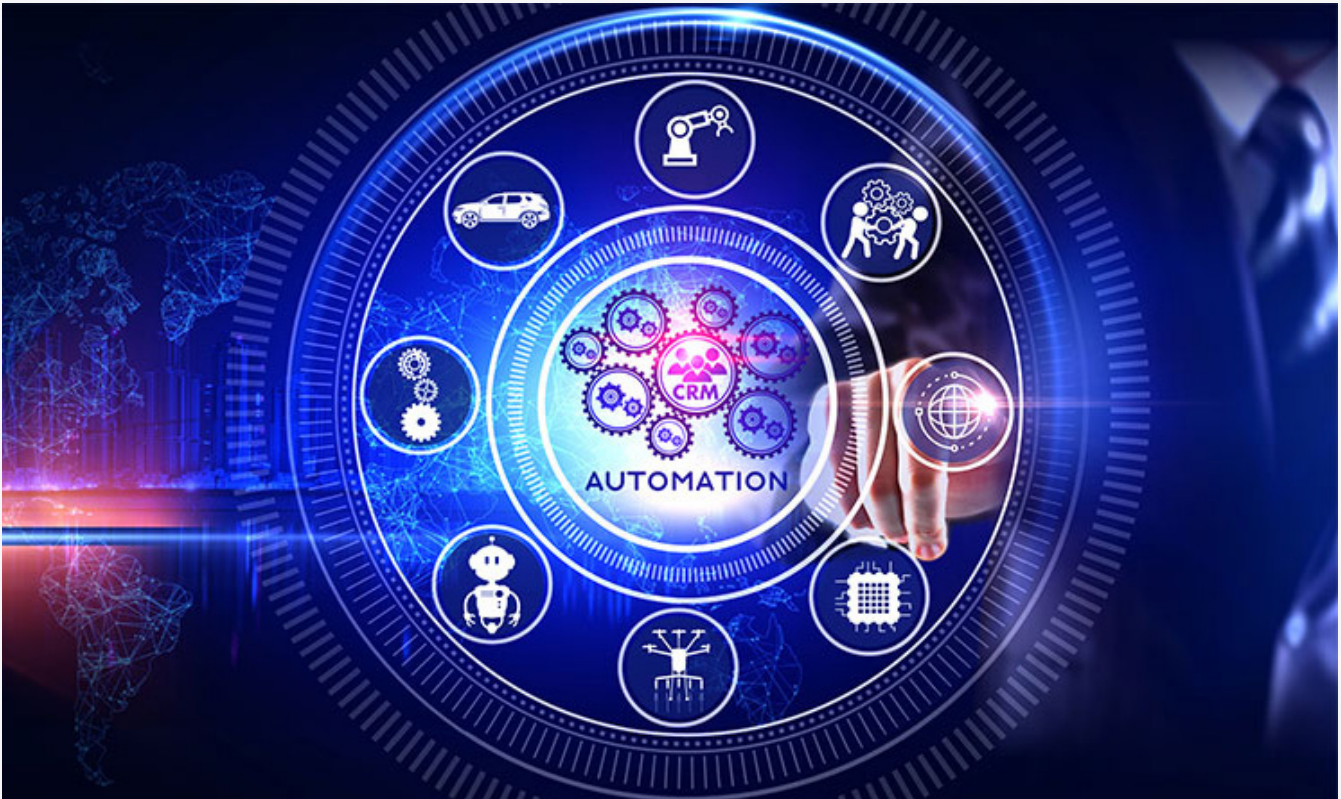
The hub is based in Nairobi but will provide services to beneficiaries across the country. This will be achieved through collaborations and partnerships with other hubs, intermediaries, universities, research organizations and TVETs.

Services to be provided by gDIH

The gDIH will provide 18 services to MSMEs, start-ups, and innovators to support commercialization and up-scaling of their innovations and businesses, grouped under four pillars; test before invest, access to finance, skills development, and innovation ecosystem development as shown in the table below.

Summary of Services to be provided by the gDIH			
Test Before Invest	Access to Finance Skills	Skills Development	Innovation Ecosystem Development
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maturity assessment tools 2. Testing, piloting and demonstration facilities and services 3. Knowledge sharing and technology transfer. 4. Regulatory Compliance 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support in finding- and securing adequate financing options for the implementation of digital and green technologies. 2. Organize matchmaking events with financial service providers, investors, and other funding opportunities. 3. Carbon credits 4. Access to government and other incentives and subsidies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Skilling in green and digital enabling technologies 2. Creating awareness on digital tools for ICT, energy and agriculture 3. ESG Leadership and executive training 4. Training on certifications and standards 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholders and services mapping 2. Linkages with other hubs, labs, research centers for open sustainable innovation 3. Conduct hackathons and makerthons 4. Access to incubation and acceleration services 5. Advocacy and policy support 6. Knowledge sharing and technology transfer through potential partners and collaborators.





Service Delivery Strategy

- The gDIH will create a one-stop-shop catalogue of all available services critical to the green and digital transformation of Kenya. There will also be a reference catalogue that identifies existing infrastructure and technological testing facilities located in the different institutions of the members of the consortium and other digital hubs nationally and globally.
- Testing, piloting, demonstration, prototype, pilot projects, simulation and modelling and proof of concept: Through contractual agreements with selected existing incubators, accelerators, and makers spaces, and other relevant service providers, we will engage them to offer these services to our clients. In addition, the hub will partner with universities, research organizations and technical and vocational training institutes, selected competitively through partnership agreements to offer these services to our clients on a contracting basis.
- Consortium's services: Services offered by members of our consortium such as test beds, efficiency assessments of green technologies and digital maturity assessment, the hub will favorably compete with existing service providers, taking advantage of the market recognition of our members of the consortium. To enhance effective delivery of services, the hub will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the members of the consortium and other organizations on how effectively the services will be jointly offered to the clients. The MoU will assist in accelerating the deployment of green and digital technologies, and strengthen innovation and the technological advancement of businesses, especially SMEs.



- **Access to finance:** Services related to enhancing access to finance such as organizing match-making events; climate finance (green bonds and carbon credits), and venture capital and crowd financing. The hub will identify organizations with proven experience and partner with them. Some of these partners may fund some activities while the hub may also become a source of pipelines for funding by these firms.
- **Training and skills development:** There are already many innovation hubs offering some form of training to MSMEs, start-ups and innovators. There are also many other public and private organizations providing skills. Our strategy will include; differentiation whereby the hub will offer training programs that are not currently offered by existing innovation hubs and other training facilities such as targeting managers of innovation hubs and technology transfer offices. These is because they are very few training programs existing that targets managers of innovation hubs and technology transfer offices. The second online training, the hub will provide online training through the virtual academy to enhance outreach and reduce the costs of access.
- **Research and development for policy making:** The hub will undertake various policy research projects aimed at generating evidence to inform policies that can strengthen innovation and ecosystem development. The hub will collaborate with networks of startups, innovation hubs and enterprise support organizations to organize policy dialogues and related advocacy activities.
- **Collaboration regionally and globally:** The gDIH will maintain a local focus but tap into the power of the other hubs globally including the European DIH network to foster closer relationships and get access to a wider range of green and digital skills and technologies.

Projected outputs (2024-2026)



TEST BEFORE INVEST

- At least 284 MSMEs supported to access services on proof of concepts, prototyping and testing, simulation and modelling
- At least 470 MSMEs supported to access testing, piloting and demonstration facilities in academia
- At least 1400 MSMEs supported to access technical assessments services on green technologies



ACCESS TO FINANCE:

- At least 1000 MSMEs and startups supported to access various financing opportunities
- At least US\$ 50 million investment funds mobilized and made available to the MSMEs MSMEs assessments services on green technologies



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

- At least 1500 MSMEs supported to access incubation and acceleration services on green and digital technologies
- MSMEs assessments services on green technologies



SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

- At least 3000 beneficiaries trained on digital tools and technology, digital skills, green technologies, intellectual property rights, certification and standards as well as technology transfer



Supported by



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